

Project, the Massachusetts Rehabilitation Center, and the Jewish Federation of Central Massachusetts.

Over the past few months we as a country have witnessed horrific crimes motivated by hate. Last year James Byrd, Junior, a 49-year-old black man, was murdered in a brutal attack in Jasper, Texas. His alleged assailants, three white men, dragged him for 2 miles while he was chained to the back of a truck.

Four months later Matthew Shepard, an openly gay student at the University of Wyoming, was kidnapped, robbed, beaten, and burned by two men on a cold October night. This young man, with a promising future, died 6 days later.

Recently in Littleton, Colorado, certain high school students appeared to have been specifically targeted and murdered because of their race and chosen faith. In my own district, the Jewish Community Center in Worcester, Massachusetts, experienced the evils of anti-Semitism when Nazi swastikas were painted throughout the facilities.

Those who participated in the community meeting last week shared moving accounts on the effects of intolerance. These crimes attack the very democratic foundation of our country.

The Hate Crimes Prevention Act would expand the situations where the Department of Justice can prosecute defendants for violent crimes committed because of the victim's race, color, religion, or national origin.

It would also authorize the Department of Justice to prosecute individuals who commit violent crimes against others because of the victim's sexual orientation, gender, or disability. Current Federal law does not cover crimes with these motives.

In 1997, the latest year for which FBI figures are available, over 8,000 hate crime incidents were reported. That is nearly one hate crime every hour. Clearly the time to pass the Hate Crimes Prevention Act is now.

Over 40 States have hate crimes statutes, including, I am proud to say, my home State of Massachusetts. However, only 21 cover sexual orientation, 22 cover gender, and 21 cover disability. By strengthening the Federal law, State and local authorities will be able to utilize Federal personnel and investigative resources.

Hate knows no boundaries. We need a law to protect all Americans. Tough Federal hate crimes legislation would give our justice system the tools and authority to recognize acts of violence committed on the basis of a person's gender, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, or religion.

By recognizing these incidents and punishing those responsible, we can begin to eradicate these acts of hate from our schools, our neighborhoods, and our country.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Junior, believed that injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. By pass-

ing this legislation, Congress will send a clear and powerful message that we will not tolerate these violent acts which not only change the life of the victim, but affect the entire community. The ripple effect caused by these crimes sends shock waves throughout the targeted community, often leaving fear, despair, and loneliness in its wake.

We all need to join together to break down the walls of ignorance and to build a community founded on tolerance, justice, and compassion. The allies of hate are not just the perpetrators. Silence and complacency are allies, as well. The enemy of hate is a community and a Congress that does not tolerate hateful messages, words, or deeds.

We must take a stand and pass the Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 1999 now; not next year or sometime in the future, but now.

ENCOURAGING MEMBERS TO SUPPORT THE TEENAGE PREGNANCY PREVENTION ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Mrs. CLAYTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank all of those who have joined me, and the gentlewoman from Maryland (Mrs. CONNIE MORELLA) who has spoken earlier, and several others. The gentleman from Delaware (Mr. CASTLE) is here, and the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. CAPPS) is here, who are all taking active time out to speak.

Mr. Speaker, we are here this evening because we care about our young people. We are here because we recognize that May has been designated as Teenage Pregnancy Month.

We are here to acknowledge the success of efforts that have been made as a result of communities working together and a variety of communities doing different things, pulling together parents, schools, communities, churches; understanding that there are no easy answers to teenage pregnancy, but understanding that it is a serious problem that indeed deserves our concentration and a concentrated effort on the part of all of us.

Abstinence certainly is the main program that we advocate, and feel that it is one sure method that young people can be assured of, if indeed they have that and practice that. Abstinence certainly would not only reduce and prevent teenage pregnancy, but it also will reduce and prevent many of the transmitted disease as they relate to being sexually active, none more drastically than the spread of AIDS, which takes too many lives.

However, abstinence alone will not do it, because too many young people, obviously, are involved. So we also advocate that there should be Planned Parenthood, there should be contraceptives, there should be a variety of educational counseling, health clinics.

There should be the community, the church, faith-based activities that encourage young people's development. We believe that if young people have a strategy for the future and have hope about their career and have economic security, they are more likely to be about developing themselves, rather than getting involved in behavior that is self-destructive, including premature sex.

Once a young person is pregnant, there are no good choices. Indeed, we know, because there is research that shows without a doubt teenage pregnancy not only brings stress to the teenage mother or the teenage father and their family, and the young person that is born, but also it is costly to society.

Research has shown that a teenaged daughter giving birth to a daughter, that daughter grows up and is 83 percent more likely to be a teenage mother herself. A son who is given birth by a teenage mother, that young man has a likelihood 2.7 times greater to get in trouble and to either have as his hope for the future going to prison or death. Those are not statistics that we can look and think that this is an easy answer by saying that that is just one approach. Several approaches must be used.

This is a serious problem because we think that teenage destructive behavior eventually is a continuum, whether it is getting involved with premature sexual activities or involved in drugs or involved in crime, all of the things that do not allow that young person to be the person that he or she has the potential of being and making a contribution. Society loses, not only through the costs to imprison that young man or the costs for sexual disease and transmission of those diseases, but the loss of the contribution that those young people could make is even more severe.

So we are here tonight to tell young people and adults that this is a serious problem. We are here to reinforce their value to us, and how we care about them.

I just want to mention things that we do in our district. We have now had several forums. This year alone we have had two. We had one last Saturday, where we had more than 50 young people and adults to come. We had ministers, we had counselors, we had health professionals, we had young people who were engaged with other young people. They had a teen summit where they talked to each other. It is surprising what teenagers say to themselves and to each other. They indeed can give some of the best wisdom.

I urge all of our colleagues to engage themselves with young people. Again, I want to thank all the Members who have come to speak on this important subject.

TEENAGE PREGNANCY, A CONCERN FOR EVERYONE IN AMERICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Delaware (Mr. CASTLE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I will be brief, but I did want to join in the participation of what we have seen here tonight.

I am the cochair person of the Congressional Advisory Committee to Prevent Teen Pregnancy. But I think we all should be cochairs of that. I think that is a subject of huge importance to everybody in America today.

We still in America have the highest rate of teen pregnancy, higher than some of the Third World countries, in the world, which is pretty amazing when we consider the advances which have been made in American society in so many other ways, because I consider this to be, frankly, a high negative.

We are doing better. Our statistics in the last 3 or 4 years indicate that we are starting to go down in the rate of teenage pregnancy. It is a tremendous problem, obviously, because we have a lot of unwed very young mothers with absolutely no income sources whatsoever; with young men out there who do not have a clue about how to do anything about a family, or earn any income or whatever it may be. So it is almost a direct descent into some sort of economic help from the government in the form of welfare or something else.

In fact, the statistics are something like that if you graduate from high school and you wait until 20 to get married and you never have a criminal record, the chances are something like 80 percent you will never be in poverty. But if indeed any of those things happen, if you get pregnant early or do not graduate from high school or have a criminal record, the chances are almost overwhelming that you are going to live in poverty at some time during the course of your life.

So it is very evident, with perhaps a few exceptions, it is evident that we are all far better off if we indeed wait with respect to the concept of giving birth and getting pregnant. Obviously, I guess we would preach abstinence first.

That has a lot of good tones to it in terms of what it means in the sense that you do not have any of the mental concerns of having been sexually involved, and of course you are going to prevent disease because you have not been involved, and obviously no pregnancies are going to take place. But at some point it often goes beyond that with our young people, and they do get involved.

At that point we need to talk about planning and contraceptives. I think we have a more open approach. The idea is to avoid pregnancy. By avoiding pregnancy, you avoid all of those problems, and of course avoid the horrible problem of abortion, which is something that is abhorred by practically

everybody in the country, whether they are pro-choice or pro-life.

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So we have to do these things. I see it. I see it in my State of Delaware. I have seen it in Dover High School at a wellness center just last week, last Friday. I talked to four or five kids who are going through programs there to help deal with the subject of pregnancy. They are talking with each other.

We have wellness programs in all but one high school in the State of Delaware now that we did not have before. They have sessions in which they can actually get together and begin to talk about these issues.

That is why I think we are starting to make an impact with respect to the rate of teen pregnancy in the United States of America, which again is a positive sign. But there are still, as I said, other things that we have to do to continue to build on this recent record of success.

So I know a lot of the Members of Congress are vitally interested in this subject, and we thank them for their time and attention on it. Hopefully, the public will weigh in as well. If we do, we can prevent a lot of the hardship, a lot of the problems, a lot of the stress and strain on individuals and families that occur in this country because of teenage pregnancy that takes place across the United States. I think we can do it, and I am pleased to help be a part of this effort.

TEEN PREGNANCY PREVENTION MONTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SHIMKUS). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. CAPPS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pledge my full support to efforts across this country to reduce teen pregnancy. It is a pleasure to speak today in cooperation with my colleagues, the gentleman from Delaware (Mr. CASTLE), the gentlewoman North Carolina (Mrs. CLAYTON), the gentlewoman from Maryland (Mrs. MORELLA), all of us working here in the Congress on this goal.

Before I came here, I spent 20 years working as a school nurse in my community of Santa Barbara, California, in the central coast. During that time, for a large portion of that time, I was the director of a program at one of our largest high schools for teen parents and their children. So I know about this topic firsthand.

This program, which I fully support, encourages teenage parents, both mothers and fathers, to stay in school for their own success and the success of their young families. It provides child care, parenting education, gives them access to support services in addition to a high school diploma and further. It is a strong intervention program.

While I was with these young moms and dads, I learned firsthand the struggles that they face on a daily basis to survive and to make something of their lives. It turns out that teenage parents are some of the strongest advocates for preventing teen pregnancy. They did and do this still in my community in a very dramatic and loving way with their peers.

They know that prevention is the key, and parents are the key to prevention. Parents need to be reminded, we all do as parents, that, first and foremost, parental guidance is the best deterrence for teenage pregnancy. Teens want to learn and hear more at home. They want to hear about values and have value role models for them in their homes and to have personal responsibility discussed.

We need to work as a community to prevent teen pregnancy with child care programs and after school programs so that our teens are busy and engaged and their energy is used in productive, supervised activities. Most importantly, we need to give them goals for the future.

Class reduction in our schools is a good thing for preventing teen pregnancy. So are partnerships that I have seen in my community between businesses and our schools that provide mentorship that light a fire in the students and give them motivation to know that they have a future for themselves and they can begin to set meaningful goals.

Some want adults in the community to talk with them about their goals and to support them in reaching these goals. This is really good pregnancy prevention that I watched and was part of firsthand.

I am very proud of all that the PACE center has achieved, the teen parent program that I was so much involved with so long and from whom I learned so much, and that these programs are alive and well and thriving in my community.

I strongly support them and other groups around the country that work with young parents helping them to keep their lives on track and teaching them to be nurturing and good parents.

But I look forward to the time when we will not need so many of these programs. We know now as we have watched pregnancy prevention programs and parents and communities, religious leaders working together that our teenage pregnancy rate has declined. But we must continue to strive.

That is why I am so pleased to be the newest member actually of the House Advisory Panel for the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy. We have a job to do here in Congress, and my colleagues have spoken to this today.

It is an honor for me to be a cosponsor of the Teen Pregnancy Reduction Act by pulling together the best of ideas from around the country, interactions in our communities with young people taking the lead, and their families and community leaders, the ideas